



AFRICA
UNIVERSITY
A United Methodist-Related Institution

"Investing in Africa's Future"

COLLEGE OF HEALTH, AGRICULTURE & NATURAL SCIENCES

REM 500: RESEARCH METHODS

END OF SECOND SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATIONS

APRIL 2022

LECTURER: PROF L. DUBE

DURATION: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

Do not write your name on the answer sheet

Use Answer Sheets Provided

Begin your answer for Each Question on a New Page

Credit is Given for Neat Presentation

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer QUESTION 1 and any other three from the remaining questions.

Question 1

Read the following case and answer the questions following it.

Financial Inclusion for Sustainable Smallholder Agriculture

“Access to finance is a cross-cutting issue affecting smallholder farmers. Farmers require access to finance to purchase the requisite inputs, purchase and or hire mechanization services and to invest in post-harvest storage and market linkage technologies. However, access to adequate, appropriate and affordable formal financial services among smallholder farmers is a general challenge in Zimbabwe. The general perception is that smallholder farmers are too costly and risky to serve and the sector does not present a compelling business case to invest in. Consequently, many smallholder farmers rely on informal financial sources, microfinance institutions and rural community financial institutions for finance. These institutions and banks often lack the capacity, sectoral knowledge and capital required to lend to agriculture”.

As an agribusiness research consultant, you have been commissioned by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, Climate and Rural Development to conduct a comprehensive study in the wake of lower access to formal finance by smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe.

Required:

- a) State an appropriate research title for the research. [3]
- b) Formulate the statement of the problem for the study. [4]
- c) “A research problem exists only if some conditions are met”. With reference to the research problem and the statement of the problem you provided above, highlight three salient features of a good statement of the problem. [3]
- d) Formulate three possible research objectives for the proposed study. [6]
- e) Discuss whether a positivist or pragmatist paradigm would provide the best approach for the study and justify the choice of the paradigm. [5]
- f) Develop a conceptual framework for the above problem, clearly indicating the various types of variables. [10]
- g) Identify the target population for your study and briefly describe how you would select the sample for the study. [5]

- h) Give four ethical considerations that you would bear in mind while conducting your research. [4]

Question 2

Sampling techniques can be divided into two categories, namely probability and non-probability sampling. What five factors would you consider when choosing an appropriate sampling design for your study? [20]

Question 3

“The scientific community is a collection of people and a set of norms, behaviours, and attitudes that bind them together to sustain the scientific ethos”. In view of the above statement, discuss the five norms of the scientific community. [20]

Question 4

The research design can be thought of as the structure of research. It is the “glue” that holds all of the elements in a research project together. Identify and explain any four types of research designs. What are the five factors you would consider in selecting a research design? [20]

Question 5

Discuss any five (5) key principles that must be adhered to when designing survey questionnaires for agribusiness research. [20]

End of Examination Paper